

REMARKS

In accordance with the forgoing, claims 1, 3 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-24 are pending and under consideration. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.

I. Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants again wish to extend their gratitude to the Examiner for the suggested changes to the claims. Claim 1 has been amended to remove the feature of the connector end assembly 116, which as illustrated in FIG. 1 of the present application, for example, is not included as part of the lead adaptor assembly 102. Claim 3 has been amended to include antecedent basis for the lower tab portion, and claim 20 has been amended to include antecedent basis for the first lower tab portion and the second lower tab portion. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

II. Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-12 stand variously rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Nos. 5,782,892 to Castle et al ("Castle"), 5,547,390 to Laherty ("Laherty") and 4,690,482 to Chamberland et al. ("Chamberland"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a medical lead adaptor assembly having a retaining flange positioned on the lead adaptor assembly and having a retaining slot receiving and retaining a cardiac lead to substantially prevent corruption of the electrical coupling of the cardiac lead to the lead adaptor assembly.

As stated by the Examiner, Castle does not teach a retaining flange. Laherty teaches a securing device that is attached to a faceplate of an outlet, using a screw, to prevent a plug from being removed from the outlet inadvertently. The securing device is separate from the plug, and therefore

Laherty does not teach or suggest the securing device being formed as a flange portion of the plug.

None of the referenced prior art documents, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a retaining flange positioned on a lead adaptor assembly and having a retaining slot receiving and retaining a cardiac lead to substantially prevent corruption of the electrical coupling of the cardiac lead to the lead adaptor assembly. Therefore claims 1-24 are patentably distinct from the Castle, Laherty and Chamberlain. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

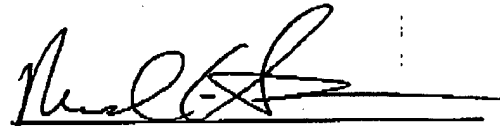
No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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